

Senate Resolution No. 30

**Introduced by Senators Figueroa, Aanestad, Alquist, Escutia,
Lowenthal, Romero, and Scott**

Relative to Educational Options Month.

WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes that, because pupils learn in a variety of ways, the state's educational system must strive to meet the needs of its entire diverse pupil population by supporting education options and the sustainability of these option programs; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Senate Bill 445 was enacted, declaring the purpose of educational options and authorizing school districts and county offices of education to establish and maintain alternative schools and programs to, among other things, serve at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, Educational options include continuation high schools, magnet programs, charter schools, independent study, adult education, opportunity programs, community day schools, pregnant minor programs, county community schools, juvenile court schools, youth authority, and alternative schools, representing over 750,000 pupils; and

WHEREAS, Educational options, as part of the state's educational system, maximize learning opportunities for pupils who still need to pass the California High School Exit Examination, or are deficient in credits, pregnant or parenting, homeless, recovered dropouts, or in some other way classified "at risk," to develop the positive values and life skills, such as self-reliance, initiative, resourcefulness, creativity, and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Educational options provide a choice of educational pathways in an effort to confront educational and social challenges, to meet the needs of all pupils that will ensure them the opportunity to make appropriate postsecondary choices, including higher education, technical and career training, and the military; and

WHEREAS, There is a high level of professionalism and specialized training required of a successful educational options educator in order to provide academic and career instruction, character

development, and experiences that lead to successful citizenship, employment, and higher education; and

WHEREAS, All educators and administrators providing instruction to pupils participating in educational options programs are committed to providing a supportive learning environment that is best suited to every pupil's academic, personal, and social needs; advocating for a quality education as a means to inspire every pupil to become a self-motivated, responsible learner; and

WHEREAS, Educational options programs and schools issue diplomas to pupils and must fulfill the same state and federal requirements as all traditional schools, including alignment to the California state content standards, offering a rigorous curriculum that includes all core academic subjects, as well as participate in all state-mandated testing programs, such as the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program and the California High School Exit Examination, and are an alternative place to learn, not an alternative to learning; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the month of May 2006 as Educational Options Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to work together to ensure the future success of every young pupil participating in educational options in our state.

Senate Resolution No. 30 read and adopted by the Senate May 18, 2006.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate